



July 15, 2005

Dear Patient,

This letter is intended to make you aware of important information about Guidant's CONTAK RENEWAL® 3 and 4 implantable devices (Models H170, H173, H175, H177, H179, H190, H195, H197, H199, M150, M155, M157, M159, M170, M175, M177, M179, H230, H235, H239). We hope this letter will help answer questions you may have. We deeply regret any inconvenience or apprehension this may have caused you or your loved ones. Information about the unlikely but possible failure in these devices has been shared with physicians as well as regulatory bodies.

In four confirmed instances out of 46,000 devices implanted, Guidant's CONTAK RENEWAL 3 and 4 devices failed during use. In these devices, a magnetic switch inside the device became stuck in the closed position, which limited their ability to respond to abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias). There may have been a fifth occurrence, however that device was not returned to Guidant for testing so we cannot confirm that it experienced this failure. None of these resulted in patient injury.

What you should do:

- *Important:* if you or others hear "beeping" from your device, go immediately to your doctor or the emergency room. Beeping may indicate that the magnetic switch inside the device has become stuck in the closed position
- Continue to keep your normal doctor appointments.
- If you are not sure which model you have, or if you have other questions regarding your device, you should consult with your physician.

We have recommended to your physician that he or she consider a simple programming change to disable the magnet inside your device. After talking to you, your physician may determine other courses of action appropriate for you based on your medical history.

We work every day to make sure that our products are the best they can be, and yet must acknowledge that despite our best efforts, this therapy, like all therapies, has limitations. Our employees are committed to the idea that each device they "touch" might eventually be implanted in a family member or friend, and be relied upon for extending or improving his or her quality of life. That, more than anything, helps Guidant employees maintain their steadfast dedication to patients.

If you would like more information call 1-866-GUIDANT (1-866-484-3268) in the U.S. or visit [www.guidant.com](http://www.guidant.com).

As always, please contact your physician if you have additional questions or concerns. It is our normal process to communicate with physicians directly about any updates or additional information.

Thank you.



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